

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BREMEN 00379 221528Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 221420Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BREMEN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647
US MISSION USBERLIN 573
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS BREMEN 379

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJECT: BREMEN FDP REJECTS CDU COALITION OFFER IN LAND BREMEN

1. FOLLOWING THE TACTICS OF CDU LEADERS IN OTHER LAENDER, THE CHAIRMAN OF BREMEN'S CDU LAST WEEK "INVITED" THE FDP TO JOIN IT IN A COALITION FOLLOWING THE 1979 LAND ELECTIONS. YESTERDAY (JUNE 21) , FDP LAND CHAIRMAN, LAHMANN, REJECTED THE CDU'S COALITION OFFER. HE DENIGRATED THE CDU INITIATIVE AS PART OF A TRANSPARENT NATIONWIDE CDU STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS THE FDP AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT AT THIS TIME ALL SPECULATIONS CONCERNING FDP COALITION PREFERENCES IN BREMEN WERE IDLE. HOWEVER, HE CAME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF CLEAR FDP COALITION PRONOUNCEMENTS IN DUE TIME BEFORE ELECTIONS AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE BREMEN FDP WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN APRIL/MAY 1979. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE DEFENDED THE FDP'S STRATEGY IN THE 1975 LAND ELECTION. AT THAT TIME, THE PARTY DECLARED BEFORE THE ELECTION ITS READINESS TO JOIN IN A COALITION WITH THE SPD. HOWEVER, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WON AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY,
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ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR A COALITION.

2. LAHMANN DISPLAYED OPTIMISM ON THE FDP ELECTION PROSPECTS IN BREMEN. CONCEDED THAT A "GREEN PARTY" COULD ALSO DIVERT SOME VOTES FROM THE LIBERALS, HE WAS NEVERTHELESS CONFIDENT THAT THE FDP'S 13 PERCENT SHOWING IN THE 1975 BREMEN ELECTION WILL NOT BE APPRECIABLY REDUCED IN 1979. HE ATTRIBUTED THE FDP

DEFEATS IN HAMBURG AND LOWER SAXONY MAINLY TO THE FACT THAT,
ACCORDING TO LAHMANN, IN BOTH LAENDER THE PARTY DID NOT SUCCEED
IN EXPLAINING ITS PROGRAM TO THE VOTERS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LAHMANN REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COALITION
COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IN DUE COURSE
THE BREMEN FDP WILL AGAIN OPT FOR A COALITION PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE SPD. SCHIFFMAN

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